

HOUSE BILL 1766

By Shipley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 43; Title 44; Title 53; Title 54 and Title 67,
relative to agricultural economic growth and
development.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 43, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new section:

Section 43-1-114.

(a) From funds available to the state of Tennessee under the American
Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, or from other funds
specifically appropriated for such purpose, the department of agriculture shall
establish agricultural economic growth and development grant pilot projects as
described in subsection (b):

(b)

(1)

(A) There is established a Tennessee aquaculture grant
pilot project.

(B) Grants shall be awarded to qualified applicants in
Carter, Johnson, Sullivan and Unicoi counties for expansion and
development of a sustainable tilapia industry.

(C) Grants awarded under this subdivision (b)(1) may be
used for equipment, planning, construction, repair, renovation and
maintenance of new tilapia processing facilities and new or
existing aquaculture farms including, but not limited to, the

conversion of existing farms from other fish or shellfish species to tilapia.

(D) The department shall monitor such pilot project and report any findings and recommendations to the senate commerce, labor and agriculture committee and agriculture committee of the house of representatives by February 1, 2012.

(2)

(A) There is established a Tennessee viticulture grant pilot project.

(B) Grants shall be awarded to qualified applicants in Carter, Johnson, Sullivan and Unicoi counties for expansion and development of a sustainable wine industry.

(C) Grants awarded under this subdivision (b)(2) may be used for equipment, planning, construction, repair, renovation and maintenance of new or existing vineyards and grape processing facilities.

(D) The department shall monitor such pilot project and report any findings and recommendations to the senate commerce, labor and agriculture committee and agriculture committee of the house of representatives by February 1, 2012.

(c)

(1) The department shall develop reasonable qualifications and requirements for grant applicants consistent with this section and in furtherance of agricultural based economic growth and development.

(2) As a prerequisite to the receipt of any grant awarded pursuant to this section, the recipient shall agree to provide to the department, within ninety (90) days of the close of the tax year within which such grant is expended, an accounting of the actual expenditure of such funds, including a notarized statement that the report is true and correct in all material respects.

(d) The grant pilot projects established by this section shall be public/private partnerships and all grant recipients shall be required to match grants received in amounts established by the department for each project.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, if grants are made with moneys available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, all such grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be awarded in a manner consistent with any federal requirements for acceptance and use of such funds.

(f) In establishing the grant pilot projects pursuant to this section, the department shall consult with the department of economic and community development and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation, in consultation with the department of agriculture, shall develop recommendations for highway improvements in support of the agricultural economic growth and development grant programs established pursuant to this act.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.